



I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Bridging Futures Art and Essay Contest Classroom Discussion Guide

The following information is intended to guide your lesson plans for educating students on safety issues surrounding wildlife and public roads. Providing background information will prepare students as they gear up to participate in the sixth annual Bridging Futures Art and Essay Contest.

Introducing the topic

Q: How do you know when it is safe to cross the street?

A: Obey all traffic signs; use crosswalks; stop, look and listen; walk, don't run; use crossing guards at school; wait until there is no traffic to begin crossing, keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing. It is safe to cross when the roadway is clear in all directions.

Q: Ask students to imagine what it would be like to cross a busy road without those helpful tools.

A: Allow student discussion.

Q: How do animals know when to cross the road?

A: Allow student discussion.

Q: What kinds of fish and wildlife live in the Cascade Mountains?

A: Bears, deer, elk, cougars/mountain lions, fish, wolverines, lizards, frogs, salamanders, bugs, bats, squirrels, flying squirrels, etc.

Q: How can people help wildlife cross highways and roads?

A: After some discussion, introduce the I-90 Project wildlife bridges. Explain that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is planning to build wildlife overcrossings and undercrossings along the interstate to reconnect animals with their habitats.

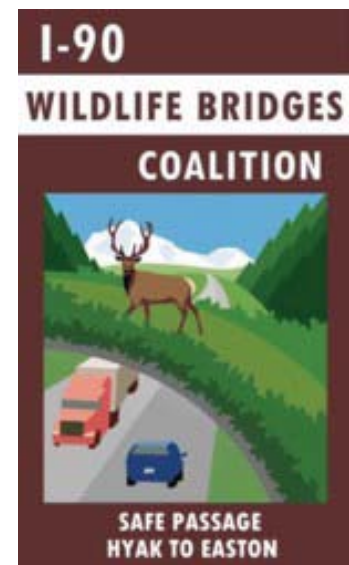
Q: How will wildlife bridges benefit people?

A: Explain how wildlife bridges protect people while allowing animals to safely cross the road. Building wildlife bridges on I-90 will reduce the number of animals on the roadway and therefore the number of vehicle/animal collisions.

(Depending on time, show the design visualization video and/or the I-90 Project video we provided in this packet)

Q: Do you have any specific ideas for how WSDOT can reconnect wildlife with their habitats?

A: Encourage students to share their feedback and let them know WSDOT wants to hear their ideas too!





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(continued)

Student Feedback

Students may ask the following questions:

Q: How will animals know how to use the wildlife bridges?

A: WSDOT will install special fencing near the highway that will guide the wildlife to the wildlife bridges, keeping them off the road and keeping us safe from collisions.

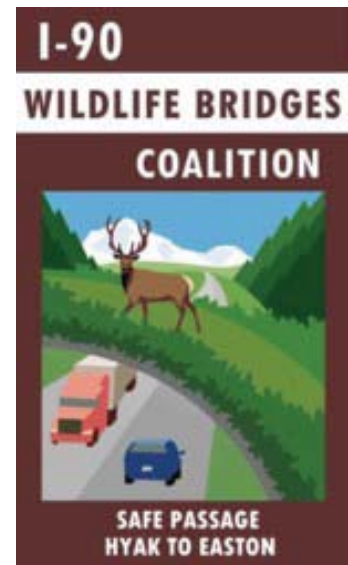
Q: How does WSDOT know where to put the bridges?

A: WSDOT and the I-90 Bridges Coalition have been studying and monitoring the wildlife to learn what kind of wildlife crosses the highway. We also track how wildlife crosses the highway - whether it's by using culverts or directly crossing the road. There are many different ways to track wildlife, including tracking footprints in the mud and snow, collecting hair samples, and using heat sensor cameras.

Explaining the contest

- Discuss the contest (drawing and essay portion) with your students, letting them know that WSDOT wants to use their ideas and knowledge to help educate the public.
- WSDOT also needs their help to plan future road designs that make travel safer for people and wildlife.
- Remind students that the wildlife bridges can go under, over, or through the road!
- The contest winners will receive professionally framed version of their artwork and may have their artwork featured on a Washington state bill board!

Contact Amanda Sullivan, I-90 Project Communications, to schedule a presentation for your class. Phone: 509-577-1942; e-mail Sulliva@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov.



Picture of deer captured from wildlife monitoring camera



Picture of bear captured from wildlife monitoring camera